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PastWatch - December 1992

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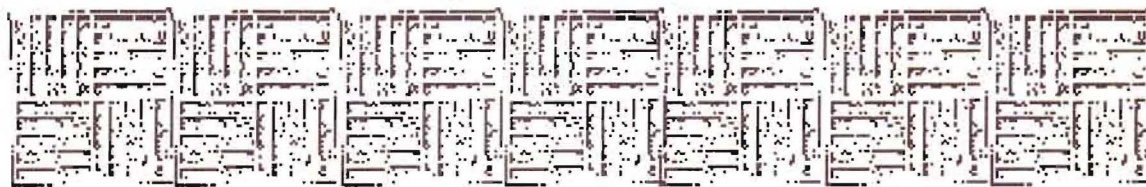
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SCIAA
PAS
1992

Past Watch



Volume One, Number One, December 1992. Occasional Newsletter of the Archeological Research Trust of The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of South Carolina

STATUS OF THE 1992 INAUGURAL YEAR EN- DOWMENT FUND DRIVE

Albert C. Goodyear

The financial goal for the first year's efforts at raising an endowed fund for the ART was \$100,000. During April and May of this year, some 1,130 letters were mailed out to prospective donors soliciting donations to the Endowment Fund.

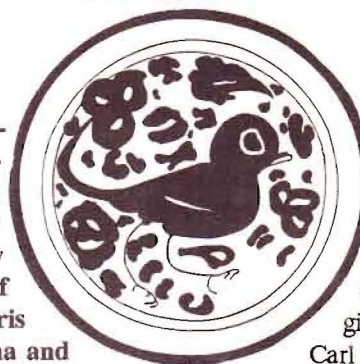
A total of 65 people responded to this letter giving a total of \$22,460. Prior to the letter campaign, 26 people had donated \$5,491. Thus, the total which has been contributed to the Endowment Fund to date is \$27,951 by 87 people and organizations. Remember that the Endowment Fund is the account where donations contribute to a principal sum which is never spent. Only the interest generated is expended. A single gift to this fund no matter how small continues to generate interest income for generations to come.

Only three weeks are left in the ART Endowment Fund Drive for this year. Remember that all those individuals, organizations and businesses that give to the Endowment Fund in the 1992 inaugural year will have their names placed on a charter that will hang permanently in the SCIAA. For those desiring to contribute to the 1992 Endowment Fund drive, please see the donor schedule listed within this newsletter and mail the check before Decem

(Continued on page 8)

Archaeology and Education at Santa Elena 1992

By Stanley South



An archaeological expedition focused on archaeology and education at the sixteenth century Spanish capital of Santa Elena on Parris Island, South Carolina and was carried out from April 6th through May 22nd.

The project was partly funded by the Trust and directed by Stanley South, archaeologist with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, and was sponsored by the Institute and the Columbian Quincentennial Commission of South Carolina. Chester DePratter, Chairman, through the cooperation of the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island.

The goal of the project was to locate additional ruins of houses standing in Santa Elena over four hundred years ago (1566-1587). Two thousand school children and other visitors were given a tour of the site by Christopher Judge, Tommy Charles and Chester DePratter and were able to watch archaeology underway. The educational aspect of the project was designed to open the doorway to the past toward creating a

better understanding of the Spanish presence in the New World in the sixteenth century.

Assisting Stanley South were archaeologists Chester DePratter, Carl Steen, Tommy Charles, Christopher Judge, and Ashley Chapman. Also invaluable to the success of the project were many volunteers who gave freely of their time, some for many weeks. One volunteer, was a professional archaeologist from the Ministry of Education and Culture for the Government of Uruguay. Other volunteers, professional archaeologists, and inexperienced lay persons, were from South Carolina, Indiana, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New York, and Tennessee.

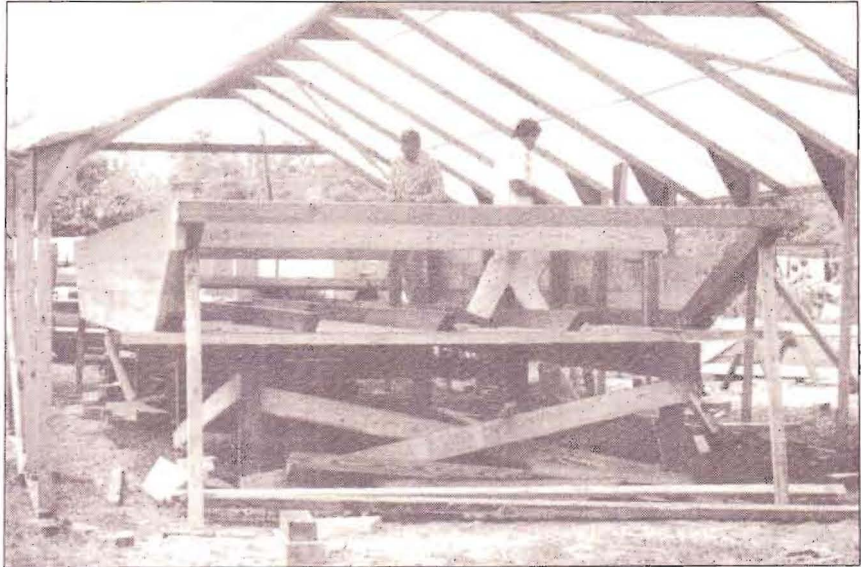
During the 1991 expedition, postholes for a Spanish structure were located. It was conjectured that additional postholes should be found in the adjacent area when it was excavated in 1992. This prediction proved accurate, revealing the ruins of a two story building plastered with oystershell mortar, measuring 24 feet square. Many Spanish artifacts from broken pottery, to musket balls to triggers from Spanish arquebuses, were located.

(Continued on page 8)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

1993 is the year in which South Carolinians need to adopt a philosophy of protecting our non-renewable archaeological resources. I urge you to choose an archaeological period of interest and adopt an archaeologist to support in the field and in the laboratory. In this first issue of *PastWatch*, you will be introduced to several research archaeologists at the Institute who will share with you some of the most recent archaeological work that they are involved.

Roland C. Young
Chairman, Archaeological
Research Trust



A NEW CAROLINA RICE BARGE

Mark M. Newell

PastWatch, published four times a year, is the newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

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**The Archaeological Research Trust
of the**

**SC Institute of Archaeology and
Anthropology**

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Work is nearing completion on the reproduction of an authentic rice plantation barge at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens near Charleston, South Carolina. The experimental research project is the first of its kind to be funded through the Archaeological Research Trust.

Financial support for the project was donated by Mr. Drayton Hastie, owner of Magnolia Plantation. The result will be a 14' by 40' barge built of 150 year old cured heart pine, modern pine, and live oak. The finished craft will be displayed at Magnolia Gardens.

Principal Investigator for the project is Mark M. Newell of SCIAA's Underwater Archaeology Division. Newell has been documenting small craft in the State since 1983 and has specialized in craft of the rice culture.

"We have found a great many barges sunken in rivers and rice field canals," Newell said, "A certain amount of information can be learned about their construction by examining the wreckage - but there is a great deal about the actual process of construction we simply cannot learn from the remnants of these craft."

"By actually building a barge using old and new methods we come face to face with problems plantation carpenters had to solve that we would not normally be aware of. Our first inclination, for example, would be to build the barge upside down since this made laying up the bottom planking easier. Then it was discovered that the lumber used to build the floor of the barge would weigh 3,000 pounds! Now the floor will be built up on a platform and the planking attached from underneath. There are hundreds of small problems like this which will come to light during the project. They will help us better understand the workmanship of slave carpenters 150 years ago."

The project will also be videotaped in order to produce a documentary which may be aired on public television. Area boatbuilders and ship carpenters will be invited to view the project and pass along oral histories as part of the program material.

The construction drawings for the barge were based on features of several barges documented by Newell. The primary source is a barge dated to the 1850s and found in a rice canal on Friendfield Plantation near Georgetown.

**THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BECOME A FOUNDER
OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TRUST**

(See Details Page 7)

DIRECTOR'S VISTA

By Bruce Rippeteau

Director and State Archaeologist

The 1991 creation of an Archaeological Research Trust for SCIAA is a good dream come true! Since 1984, some 20 stalwart men and women within SCIAA have met and advocated several programs for the private enhancement of SCIAA's already excellent but publically-funded service and research.

Of these free ideas and good people came the concept that we should seek private funds to further illuminate South Carolina's archaeological heritage. Thus it was that four founding SCIAA members: Albert Goodyear, Tommy Charles, Mark Newell, and the author, along with two citizens, Roland Young of Columbia and Miller Ingram of Cheraw, along with the help and support of Harriette Wunder of the USC Educational Foundation, met on 14 November 1991, and **ART** came into existence. Since then, and pursuant to the Bylaws, two more stalwarts have been added: Tony Harper of Greenville and Shipp Harris of Columbia, thus rounding out the Board.

Our **ART** purpose is set forth in Articles II and III of our Bylaws: to summarize, we are entrusted to solicit and manage funds from the private sector for the purposes of enhancing SCIAA capabilities and knowledge in the fields of research, conservation, and education.

ART is independent of SCIAA. It has eight members: four from the community and four from SCIAA (seven vote; the eighth is the Director of SCIAA who is *ex officio*) who serve overlapping terms of two years. Business is conducted at regular meetings with standard organization and balances pursu-

ant to USC and state law.

Monies raised are approved for either general purposes as above, or in accordance with the donors' wishes. The **ART** expenditures, having met Board review and approval are authorized by the SCIAA Director, with the University of South Carolina Educational Foundation having fiduciary responsibility on behalf of **ART**.



Our initial fund raising year under Chairman Roland Young and Campaign Drive Chairman Albert Goodyear has gone well. Although we sought an initial endowment of \$100,000, we all believe that **ART** has done very well indeed in these hard times to have raised over one-fourth of that at the time of writing.

We certainly hope all who can, will have given this first year. Hereafter, those who do gave in 1991 will be known as Founders and will be emblazoned on our plaque.

Those of us who daily ring the bells for funds tend to measure our

success in dollars and good will. To this end, we are planning several special recognitions of donors. However, all of our work and hopes are ultimately for the private enhancement of SCIAA's central and nationally-excellent role of archaeological research in South Carolina.

Therefore, in this issue, we emphasize ongoing research: on land and beneath our waters, concerning prehistory or history, about peoples who have inhabited South Carolina in the past. In doing so, permit me to express the pride and appreciation that I feel for those that foresaw **ART** in distant meetings and for those who now join us. We wish

our forebearers had done this along ago, but as we start SCIAA's second quarter century, let us be glad that we have **ART** now.

Thank you *Donors*, for joining us on our SCIAA odyssey of discovery and illumination. Your money is well spent to fund the Endowment; its interest will enrich all South Carolinians.

Cutline:

Inaugural Meeting of ART at The Faculty House 14 November 1991. Front Row, L to R, Roland Young, Bruce Rippeteau (with charter). Back row left to right, Tommy Charles, Mark M. Newell, Miller Ingram, Ms. Harriette Wunder, Albert C. Goodyear.



Excavations at Ware Creek Ridge, a privately supported project (Photograph by Chester DePratter)

GROTON PLANTATION ARCHAEOLOGY

Chester DePratter

In October 1989, Tommy Charles, current Secretary of the ART Trustee Board received a call reporting that two whole painted Indian burial pots had recently been found on an unidentified archaeological site on the Savannah River, and that those pots were currently up for sale in an antique store in Macon, Georgia. Tommy Charles and I departed for Macon the next day, after consulting with Bruce Rippeteau, because we wanted to see what these rare painted pots looked like.

The antique dealer was unwilling to allow us to see the pots, because he knew they had been illegally removed from a burial site, and he was concerned about the legal repercussions of possessing what amounted to stolen goods. Tommy and I returned to Columbia somewhat disappointed, but we returned with information that we hoped would allow us to locate the site from which the pots had been removed. Working from a cryptic description of how the site could be reached from a boat landing on the Georgia side of the Savannah River, we concentrated our search in the vicinity of Groton Plantation located in Allendale and Hampton Counties, just south of Allendale, South Carolina.

I called Rob Winthrop, Manager of Groton Land Company and one of the plantation owners. Rob expressed concern that a site on their property

perhaps was being looted, and he granted permission for Tommy and me to come immediately to Groton. The next day, only four days after Tommy received the original call, we were on the way to Allendale.

After driving to the southern tip of the Groton plantation property, wading across three flood-swollen streams, and walking for more than a mile, we found the site. It looked like a battle field. There were looter-dug holes everywhere, and human bone and cremated human remains were visible on several of the recently deposited backdirt piles. It was a disheartening sight!

The site, a 1000 foot long, 15 foot high sand ridge on the Savannah River floodplain, was the location of a large Indian community between A.D. 1200 and 1450 (based on broken pottery we found on the surface). Collectors (or looters) had found this site long ago, and over a period of perhaps 20 years had dug more than 600 holes in search of pots and other artifacts, especially those associated with burials.

We returned to the plantation office and described our findings to Bob Winthrop, and he was appalled by our report. He promised to consult with other Winthrop family members to see what they could do to help. As a result of Rob's efforts, members of the Winthrop family personally contributed the funding needed to investigate the damage to the site (now officially called

Ware Creek Ridge--38HA148) and to determine what further work could and should be done there.

As a result of the Winthrop family's support and interest in the cultural resources located on their property, I have been able to return to Groton plantation for a total of 16 and one-half weeks of research over the past three winters. We have mapped the destruction of Ware Creek Ridge, and we have systematically collected the human bones and artifacts that littered the surface. Our excavations on the ridge have uncovered two undisturbed cremations and the remains of the two Indian houses built and occupied more than 600 years ago. Beneath these houses, as we dug deeper, we found in place deposits stretching back to more than 10,000 years ago. On days when flooding has prevented access to Ware Creek Ridge, my crew and I have conducted survey to locate sites on the upland portion of the plantation, and we have recorded nearly 300 previously unrecorded sites.

What began as a disastrous looting of burials by collectors has ended up as a research project that has significantly added to our knowledge of the prehistoric occupation of the Savannah River valley. This important contribution to knowledge is wholly due to the Winthrop family's concern for South Carolina's buried cultural heritage.



SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 1992

Nena Powell, Statewide Coordinator

During September 1992, South Carolina celebrated a series of statewide events designed to raise public awareness of the state's multicultural heritage and to enlist public support and participation in resource conservation. The SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) spearheaded and co-sponsored the first annual SC Archaeology Week (SCAW), held on September 19-26, 1992, and supported the fifth annual Archaeology Field Day on September 26, sponsored by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina.

The purpose of South Carolina Archaeology Week (SCAW) was to reach out to as many communities possible. The goals of the program were to: 1) stimulate a sense of ownership and responsibility for our archaeological heritage, 2) increase public knowledge of the significance of scientific archaeological research, 3) heighten public awareness of the tremendous loss of archaeological resources, 4) educate the public in what they can do to help protect and preserve archaeological resources, and 5) increase public involvement in legitimate archaeological activities.

The week's events focused on enlisting public interest and participation in heritage conservation. Local exhibitors and program sponsors provided a wide array of interactive and hands-on programs designed to attract audiences of all ages and ethnic/cultural diversity. The professional community offered volunteer opportunities in the field and the lab, as well as a certification field school in marine archaeology. Statewide programs and events at museums, libraries, state agency offices, historic sites, and parks included over 70 exhibits, demonstrations, guided tours, illustrated lectures, excavations, laboratory tours, and artifact identification sessions presented by over 80 organizations at 50 locations throughout the state.

The SCAW events were kicked off on Monday, September 21 on the

steps of the state capitol by a gubernatorial proclamation and a series of archaeological exhibits, demonstrations, and traditional dances by Catawba Indians. One of the pre-week programs included a lecture on Paleoindians by Al Goodyear, and Scott Jones demonstrated the use of stone age weapons, brain tanning, cordage, and fire-making techniques with the backdrop of life-like replicas of woolly mammoth, saber-toothed cat, giant sloth, and giant wart hog as part of a dynamation exhibit at Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia. Other notable programs included a New World



Photograph by Tom Vargo, courtesy of State Parks

Food Festival at the Museum of York County, an underwater archaeology field school sponsored by the SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division, a colonial village excavation at Old Dorchester State Park, a colonial feast served after dressing in colonial style costumes at Charlestowne Landing, and much more.

SC Archaeology Week culminated in the Fifth Annual Archaeology Field Day on September 26, an annual two-day camping festival sponsored by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. Over 1,500 people from across the state toured over 25 exhibits and watched over 30 demonstrators of Indian and colonial skills. Featured attractions included atlatl spear throwing, hide tanning, blow guns, flintknapping, firing of Catawba Indian pottery, indigo

dyeing, Low Country basket making, conch shell engraving, storytelling, and artifact identification. The North Carolina Historic Reenactment Society demonstrated camp life of the American Revolutionary War era. An auction raised over \$1600.00 for the Society's Trust Fund, and a slow-cooked hickory barbeque fed over 350 people. The day was topped off by a lecture on top of the Santee Indian mound by SCIAA researcher Chester DePratter, and the Edisto Indian Council dancers performed to the beat of hand-made drums.

In sum, we feel that for a first year's effort, the week activities were very successful because: 1) the majority of all professional archaeologists in South Carolina and many avocational archaeologists representing over 80 organizations worked together on the same project for the first time in the history of archaeology in South Carolina, 2) the newspaper insert was the largest single media outreach in the history of the state, and 3) the programs developed motivated the professional community where they are now organized to give these kinds of programs throughout the year. It is important to keep the momentum going, and we are. Plans are already being developed for the 2nd annual Archaeology Week. The response has been tremendous in communities where there were no organized programs, and programs are being developed now with added participation from other organizations. A survey was done to record attendance, ethnic diversity, and interests which is still being collated. An Annual Report will be prepared and distributed. If anyone is interested in a copy of our calendar of events, poster, bookmarks, or the Annual Report, please write to: Nena Powell, SC Archaeology Week Coordinator, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 777-8170.

**BE THERE FOR
NEXT YEAR'S EVENTS**

Dinner on the Ground with Friends by the Edisto

by Mark M. Newell

It was one of those cool, grey Fall days that reminds us of 'dinner on the ground' in days past, flavored with the prospect of talk on cotton and politics and the latest imports on the riverboat up from Charleston. The tangy odor of hickory smoke hung heavy in the still Autumnal air, wafting slowly across the black waters of the South Edisto River and its mantle of nearly denuded trees. Also in the air was the rich aroma of barbecued meat accompanied by all those other fragrances that seduce the appetite with their subtle hints of baked beans, and homemade cake...

The occasion was a rare one — the first ever 'donors party' staged by the Archaeological Research Trust. The affair was held on the banks of the Edisto near Sweden, SC at the invitation of good SCIAA friend Phil Neeley and his family. Their private Sojourners comground — itself rich with history and tradition — proved an ideal setting for the event.

The party brought together supporters of the Trust with staffers of SCIAA and their families. It was planned as an informal gathering at Edisto to avoid the appearance of a fund raiser — rather, the intention was simply to provide an occasion for like-minded friends to share company, a meal, and to exchange thanks for the support that started the generations long journey of the Archaeological Research Trust.

That thought, in the minds of many of us that day, made the event special indeed. More than a social gathering, it was seen as the beginning of a long tradition.

That little sense of history added yet another flavor to the comradery. We all felt that perhaps a hundred or more years from now another group might gather on this spot by the quietly flowing Edisto, view faded photographs, and remember us with thanks for what we few began here in 1992.

Most of us travelled by bus from Columbia for the affair, others came sepa-

him in a suit. A faithful SCIAA friend, he enjoyed special recognition today as chairman of the Trust, a patron of the Trust — and the 'benefactor of the barbeque' who funded the entire event through the South Carolina Underwater Archaeological Research Council.

Al Goodyear — whose scientific expertise takes second place only to his own reputation as a barbeque aficionado — looked over Sammy Lee's shoulder with a knowledgeable eye and declared everything to be in good order. Miller Ingram and charming wife Gail, they travelled from Cheraw in the far north for the party, compared the setting to their own home on the banks of the Pee Dee. An avid diver, he eyed the surface of the river with a gleam in his eye that only other underwater types would recognize.

Professors Donald Gordon and wife April joined us from Rock Hill — we were glad to see their long time support for the Archaeological Society spill over to ART. Tony Carr, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization of Augusta — a group with a vested interest in our mission at SCIAA, came and swapped war stories with some of us. Daryl and Katie Miller of Chapin, long time supporters of archaeology in South Carolina compared the feast with some enjoyed long ago with Indian friends in Brazil.

And so the conversations wafted among the wood smoke, old friendships were renewed and new ones forged — exactly what we hoped for.

There was one quasi-official moment — though I hesitate to call it even that — when we all gathered in the Neeley cabin to recognize a few of our stalwarts and to thank the Neeleys. More important though, was the sense that we would gather to do this again. That our numbers would increase and that while, in time, we would all become less than images on faded photographs, our modest accomplishments in 1992 will one day stand as a worthy monument to our dedication to a South Carolinian heritage worth preserving.



rately from Charleston and from Augusta. As with all such events, the barbeque grill, a Rube Goldberg device belching, fuming and bubbling forth from a collection of gadgets, appliances and appurtenances, was the focal point of the gathering. We stood around it drinking coffee and munching on crisp pork skins and enjoying the company. There was Bruce Ripptean in a felt hat no one had seen before. Roland Young in casual attire — an insurance executive, we have only ever seen

1992 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *ART*

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Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc.
James F. and Nellie E. Burgess Foundation
Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts
Sandoz Chemical Corporation
SC Underwater Archaeological Research Council
Sharks Scuba Club of Florence
State Farm Company

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The Charter Members Plaque of Honor

Plans are underway for the names of all Donors to the Archaeological Research Trust on checks dated prior to February 1, 1993, to be engraved on a marble or granite plaque to be permanently placed in a prominent position of honor in the entrance way of the SCIAA building.

Designers of the plaque are hoping to have the names engraved on a slab of black Elberton granite. The names will be listed in alphabetical order, each the same size, with the names of patrons infilled with gold leaf.

Donation of some services is still being sought before completion of this outstanding recognition plaque can

be completed. None of the costs for the plaque will be charged to any *ART* or SCIAA fund.

"The Endowment portion of the Archaeological Research Trust is a funding mechanism which will work for generations to come," said Institute Director, Dr. Bruce Rippeteau.

"We feel that the spirit and generosity of the founding members of *ART* should also be recognized for more generations to come. For this reason, we are seeking to create a permanent memorial to the magnificent actions of these public-spirited people," said Rippeteau.

Readers of *PastWatch* may

still ensure that their names will be placed on the memorial plaque. Any funds received by February 1, 1993, but dated prior to January 1, 1993, will be listed among the 1992 Founders.

When completed, the plaque will be mounted on the wall in the Educational Room in SCIAA where it will be unveiled during a special ceremony next year.



Santa Elena *Continued*

One family, passing through the area on a sail boat, were so impressed that they donated \$5,000 to help with the analysis of the artifacts being recovered. Another visitor, on a bus tour from Columbia, was also so impressed that she also wrote a check for \$5,000 to the Archaeological Research Trust to help with the analysis of the Santa Elena artifacts this summer and fall. It is through donations to the Columbian Quincentennial Commission, The Archaeological Research Trust, or to the Santa Elena Project at the Institute, that continued progress toward revealing the secrets of the soil at Santa Elena has to offer through the

doorway of archaeology.

Those interested in reading a summary about the archaeology at Santa Elena during the past thirteen years can purchase the book written for the layman entitled, *Archaeology at Santa Elena: Doorway to the Past*, by Stanley South, which sells for \$5.00 at the Institute.



Inaugural Year *Continued*

ber 31, 1992. As much as we need your financial contribution to make this a success, equally so, we wish to have your name added to this charter as one who is standing with us. On behalf of the ART and as the Chair of the 1992 Endowment Fund Drive, I wish to thank everyone who has made a donation thus far and say that I am impressed with the generosity of so many people and organizations who believe that archaeology in South Carolina will be truly served by a privately funded Archaeological Research Trust.



SCIAA Support Schedule

Student.....\$10.00

Individual.....\$20.00

Family.....\$25.00

Organization.....\$50.00

Sustaining.....\$100.00

All Gifts are Tax Deductible

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Corporate.....\$1,000.00

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